

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

RE-TRAC COOPERATIVE USAGE

Region 4
State Measurement Project

IT OFFICIALLY STARTED LAST NOVEMBER...

- At the last EPA Region 4 Southern States Meeting in Nashville Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee discussed the possibility of sharing reporting information.
- After a few preliminary side bar discussions, it was suggested that the three states get together to discuss the feasibility of possibly sharing information and inviting other five states in the region to participate or observe.

THE STORY CONTINUES...

- Tennessee hosted the first Cooperative Usage meeting April 8, 2009 in Chattanooga, TN. Seven of the eight states were represented either by teleconference or by their presence along with EPA and Emerge Knowledge.
- The target objectives were met in a very productive meeting.

THE LOW DOWN ON THE HIGH POINTS

- ◉ Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee reviewed their current Re-Trac reporting systems to familiarize everyone with the tool and to address similarities. Emerge Knowledge and the remaining states gave an overview of their systems
- ◉ At this meeting, the states agreed in concept on a methodology to aggregate commodities upward by state to the region level.

OTHER OBJECTIVES ACCOMPLISHED

- ◉ During the meeting the states identified areas of overlap that could be used in the reporting tool.
- ◉ The beginnings of a regional measurement strategy was started.
- ◉ The most important - The Region 4 states have come together and started working on a project. This project could set the ground work for a future national reporting system.

1ST MEETING NEXT STEPS

- ◉ This team would iron out definitions for Disposal, MRF, Recycling
- ◉ Tennessee would develop a survey indicating the reporting data collected by each of the Region 4 states.
- ◉ EPA would gather information on the Franklin and Bio-Cycle Reporting methodologies.
- ◉ Group would meet again in June in Atlanta.

2ND MEETING ATLANTA

- ◉ Georgia hosted the second Cooperative Usage meeting June 23, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- ◉ Seven of the eight states were represented either by teleconference or by their presence along with EPA and Emerge Knowledge.

ATLANTA MEETING OBJECTIVES

- The meeting had four objectives:
 - Review the state survey and make corrections on the survey, discuss assumptions and commonalities
 - Set primary and secondary data collection goals based on the survey results
 - Identify barriers to implementation
 - Start building timeline for next steps

OUTCOMES

- ◉ A need for an organics module in a reporting tool with Georgia taking lead in this project.
- ◉ Mill data was important but may be difficult to collect at present.
- ◉ Thresholds for data inclusion were set based on survey results. (Primary 75% or higher and Secondary 60-74% reporting thresholds)
- ◉ Meeting identified problematic terminology (Public, Private, Residential, and Non-Residential)

OUTCOMES

- ◉ Clarified concepts like the difference between Education verses Marketing.
- ◉ Obstacles for implementation identified along with potential methods to mitigate these obstacles should they arise.

NEXT STEPS AFTER ATLANTA

Action Points -

- Form Organics team to look into the design of an organics module
 - Recommend organic commodities for aggregation
 - Recommend formula(s) for aggregation
 - Recommend volume/weight conversion factor(s)
- Define and build mill reporting module
- Review confusing terminology
- Define and agree upon modeling formulas for State-to-State comparison/aggregation

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◉ Region 4 State's Meeting in Atlanta
 - ◉ Bio-Cycle and Franklin Report share methodologies to group
- ◉ February 2010 meet to further define methodology and modeling, report on organics module progress

**QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS?**